



**Department of
Education**

Dennis M. Walcott
Chancellor

Kathleen Grimm
Deputy Chancellor

October 15, 2012

Dear Parents:

As promised, I'd like to provide you with an updated status report on the condition of our building at 420 East 12th Street (M060) and the plan of action to make the necessary repairs.

First, I want to thank you for your patience in allowing us to conduct a thorough investigation. I recognize how difficult and disruptive this situation has been for students, parents and staff. I want you to know that we will continue to do everything possible to accommodate your needs and keep you informed about our progress.

I also want to clarify some misinformation that has been reported regarding when the DOE became aware of this situation. Here are the facts. The Building Condition Assessment Survey conducted in 2010-2011, which appears online, did not report anything to indicate that there could be a failure of the brick façade. While there were some indications of cracks in the masonry, they did not indicate to the DOE that there was a hazardous condition or the potential for this type of failure. Separately, the Department of Buildings inspected the building in March, 2012. While they issued a violation related to masonry, it was not related to the area of the building that has since failed, and the violation was categorized as non-hazardous.

As you know, work has been underway to remove the failing brick wall on the east side of the building. At the same time, the SCA engineers have been conducting probes of the remaining sides of the building. Those probes have made clear that we must do significant work to allow the building to be reoccupied.

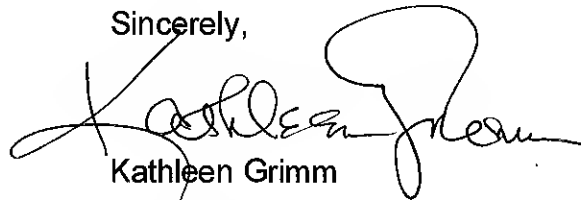
The current plan is to build a new steel and masonry wall from the inside of the east side of the building. This will allow the school to be reoccupied while we continue to work on a new brick façade to be completed after school hours and on weekends. On the west side of the building, our probes indicated that while there is no imminent potential for failure, there is the potential for future issues related to the way the original construction connected the brick façade to the masonry wall. Therefore, while work continues on the new interior wall on the east side of the building, we will take that opportunity to secure the entire west wall as well.

As you can see, this is a major undertaking that will take several months to accomplish. The current plan is to complete the new interior wall and secure the west wall by the winter break in February. We will then move both schools back into the building during that vacation week. If unforeseen issues require changes to that schedule, we will reach out to you to let you know.

I have asked your principals to schedule meetings with parents and staff this week to allow representatives from the DOE and the SCA to discuss the project and schedule in more detail and answer any questions you may have. In addition, we will continue to meet with you throughout the project to give you regular updates.

Again, I want to express my gratitude for your patience under these difficult circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Grimm', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Kathleen Grimm

cc: Mark Federman, Principal, East Side Community High School
Kaitlin Seaver, Principal, Girls Preparatory Charter School of New York